

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01757 061240Z

ACTION NEA-10

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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 1757

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BENC, SA, US

SUBJ: SAG CRACKS DOWN ON A&E FIRMS

REF: JIDDA 1467

1. NEWEST IN RECENT SERIES OF WARNINGS TO FIRMS INVOLVED
IN MAJOR PROJECTS IN SAUDI ARABIA, BOTH SAUDI AND FOREIGN,
IS MINISTRY OF COMMERCE STATEMENT CONCERNING ARCHITECT
AND ENGINEERING FIRMS, PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PRESS MARCH 2.
DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE STATED QTE: EFFECTIVE FROM
TODAY (MARCH 2) ALL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS
OF CONSTRUCTION PLANS WHO VIOLATE THE CONSTRUCTION
REGULATIONS AND LAWS SHALL BE PLACED ON THE BLACK LIST
END QTE. THE MINISTRY SINGLED OUT AS PROHIBITED PRACTICES
QTE: ENGINEERING OFFICES (GETTING) INVOLVED IN PRACTICES
BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THEIR SPECIALIZATION AND FOR WHICH
LICENSES HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO THEM, SUCH AS THE PREPARATION
AND SIGNING OF CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS AND DESIGNS OR
THE DESIGN OF THE CONCRETE STRUCTURE, WITH THE RESULT
THAT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES PERFORMED BY SUCH OFFICES
TO THE PUBLIC ARE LOW IN STANDARD AND QUALITY. BESIDES,
THEIR ACTIONS CONTRAVENE THE PROVISIONS OF THE LICENSES
GRANTED TO THEM FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OPERATIONS.
END QTE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO STATED THAT THE DEPUTY
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 01757 061240Z

MINISTER OF COMMERCE HAS REQUESTED THE DEPUTY MINISTER
FOR MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS TO TAKE NOTE OF THESE
REGULATIONS IN FUTURE AND QTE: NOT TO ACCEPT ANY PLANS
RELEASED BY SUCH OFFICES IF THEY ARE BEYOND THEIR
ACTUAL SCOPE OF SPECIALIZATION. END QTE.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SAG CRACKDOWN

ON PERCEIVED IRREGULAR ACTIVITIES OF CONTRACTING FIRMS.
THIS ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO REFLECTS IN PART THE INCREASED
POWERS RECENTLY GIVEN BY SOME MINISTERS TO THEIR
DEPUTIES TO IMPLEMENT MINISTERIAL POLIES AND PROGRAMS.

3. REF A REPORTS FIVE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISIONS
GOVERNING BIDS ON GOVERNMENT TENDERS. NEW ENGLISH
TRANSLATION BY SAUDI ECONOMIC REVIEW OF MARCH 2
CLARIFIES WORDING REPORTED REFTEL. NEW TRANSLATION
OF ONE SECTION FOLLOWS: QTE: FIFTH, COMPANIES ARE
BARRED FROM SEEKING THE HELP OF BROKERS (NOTE:
PREVIOUSLY TRANSLATED AS "AGENTS") AND MIDDLEMEN. THEY
MAY SEEK THE HELP OF SAUDI BUSINESSMEN AS AGENTS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL ISSUEEND QTE.
PORTER

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